

Message Text

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ACTION EA-06

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NSC-05 NSCE-00 PM-03 SP-02 L-01

AF-04 IO-03 SAM-01 PRS-01 INR-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00

EUR-08 NEA-06 RSC-01 /061 W
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R 061540Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE

TO AMEMBASSY SAIGON

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 6029

AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMCONSUL LUANDA

C O N F I D E N T I A L LIBREVILLE 0037

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, TP, VS

SUBJ: POSSIBLE GVN CONTACTS WITH NEW GOVERNMENT SAO TOME AND
PRINCIPE

REF: SAIGON 15849

1. FOLLOWING DEPARTMENT'S INSTRUCTIONS, WE HAVE AVOIDED
SEEKING CONTACT WITH MLSTP IN LIBREVILLE OR CONVEYING
TO ITS MEMBERS U.S. INTEREST IN THE ISLANDS' FUTURE.
FOLLOWING ASSESSMENT, BASED ON FEW BRIEF ENCOUNTERS
WITH MLSTP LEADERSHIP AND FROM SECOND-HAND SOURCES, IS
THEREFORE FRAGMENTARY AND TENTATIVE THIS SHOULD BE
STRESSED WHEN BRIEFING GVN.

2. MLSTP REPRESENTS FUSION OF AT LEAST TWO DISTINCT
MOVEMENTS -- THE MLSTP PROPER WHICH ENJOYED EMIGRE
STATUS IN LIBREVILLE FOR ALMOST A DECADE AND THE ISLANDS
BASED FLP, A SMALLER MORE LOOSELY ORGANIZED GROUP WHICH
HAD SOME FOLLOWING AMONG LABOR AND YOUNG URBAN INTEL-
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LECTUALS. MLSTP LEADERS HAVE STRESSED FACT THAT MOVEMENT

AS PRESENTLY CONSTITUTED REPRESENTATIVE OF NUMEROUS TENDENCIES. FROM SPANISH EMBASSY FOR EXAMPLE WE UNDERSTAND THAT DR. MIGUEL TROVOADA (CURRENTLY IN CHARGE OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS) IS CONSERVATIVE AND HAD IN THE PAST MADE CONCILIATORY GESTURES TO LISBON THROUGH THE SPANISH. DR. GUADALUPE DE CIETA, ANOTHER MLSTP LEADER WITH WHOM EMBASSY HAS HAD CONTACT IS FRIENDLY AND APPROACHABLE.

3. ON THE OTHER HAND MARXIST/LEFTIST STRAIN WITHIN MLSTP IS STRONG AND PROBABLY IN ASCENDANCY. WE UNDERSTAND THAT MLSTP IS MODELED AFTER AND HAS LINKS WITH ANGOLAN MPLA. RECENTLY NAMED PRIME MINISTER DA ALVA HAS BEEN DESCRIBED TO US AS A COMMUNIST, BUT WAS TALKATIVE AND FRIENDLY ON ONE OCCASION EMBASSY MET WITH HIM. DR. CARLOS DA GRACA WHO IS ALSO A MEMBER OF TRANSITIONAL GOVERNMENT RECENTLY ATTENDED COMMUNIST PARTY CONGRESS IN BUCHAREST. AFTER HIS RETURN TO LIBREVILLE, HOWEVER, HE MADE IT CLEAR TO US MLSTP HAS NO FORMED LINKS WITH ROMANIAN COMMUNIST PARTY. DA GRACA'S WIFE HAS BEEN DESCRIBED TO US BY A NUMBER OF SOURCES AS A MARXIST THEORETICIAN WHO IS MLSTP'S RESIDENT INTELLECTUAL.

4. TWO OTHER FACTORS BEAR ON MLSTP'S PROBABLY REACTION TO GVN - FACT MOST MLSTP LEADERS ARE FRANCOPHONE PLUS LONG STANDING TIES WITH GABON. FORMER SHOULD MAKE MLSTP LEADERSHIP MORE ACCESSIBLE TO GVN AND LATTER PROBABLY MEANS MORE RADICAL TENDENCIES WITHIN THE MOVEMENT HAVE BEEN MUTED.

5. TAKING ALL OF FOREGOING INTO CONSIDERATION, WE JUDGE IT AS PROBABLY WORTHWHILE FOR GVN TO SEEK CONTACTS WITH MLSTP. BEST AVENUE OF APPROACH WOULD BE THROUGH DR. MIGUEL TROVOADA WHO IS IN CHARGE OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS. COUNTRYMAN

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